

Growing Up in 1970s Zagreb

Croatian transcript:

Prije 44 godine kada sam ja rođen, znači kraj šezdesetih... Pa šta ja znam, bilo je relativno blagostanje, znači blagostanje u odnosu na postratne godine, kad su, znači... Ne znam, pedesetih godina su bile nestašice, nije bilo dovoljno hrane, nije bilo dovoljno odjeće, nije bilo stambenog prostora, znači živjelo je po više familija u jednom stanu, bile su, to su ljudi zvali markice ili točkice, znači nekakvi kuponi su bili, i svaka obitelj je mogla kupit određenu količinu hrane sa tim kuponima, i tako.

To je sve period poslije rata, pedesete-šezdesete. Krajem šezdesetih se živjelo... Dobro, ja se sad ne sjećam kraja šezdesetih, jer sam tad imao tek dvije-tri godine, ali eto, početak sedamdesetih što se ja sjećam. Živilo se normalno, znači imali smo lijepu osnovnu školu u našem kvartu, oko nje su bile zgrade izgrađene u toj dekadi, znači nove zgrade. To su bili nekakvi... Nekakva srednja klasa, znači zaposleni radnici, zaposleni intelektualci, i znači postojala je tržnica, postojale su trgovine, kafići, centar za kulturu, kino, znači sad govorim o tom našem kvartu, a u gradu je bili zgrada opere i baleta, izgradila se velika koncertna dvorana, dvadesetak kazališta, tridesetak kina, znači... Kina su bila samostalne, pojedinačne dvorane u kojima su se gledali filmovi, tada nisu postojali ovi multipleksi i to. Tako da...

Javni gradski prevoz je bio jeftin, brz i pouzdan, znači autobusi i tramvaji. Okej, nije puno ljudi, nije svako imao auto, možda ne znam ispred naše zgrade gdje je bilo stotinjak stanova, ali je bilo možda dvadesetak auta. Znači, sad nije neki veliki standard, ali ovako, živjelo se ekološki, ovaj, nije se trošilo toliko. Znači, naš ovaj utjecaj na našu okolinu, svakog nas i naših obitelji, je bio puno niži nego sada u smislu koliko se stvaralo smeća, koliko se trošilo energije.

English translation:

When I was born 44 years ago¹ – that would be in the late 60s – it was a time of relative prosperity, compared to postwar² years, when people... I mean, there were shortages in the 50s – there was a shortage of food, clothes and living space; several families lived in a single apartment. There were those, people called them stamps or dots, a type of coupons which each family could use to buy a certain amount of food, etc.

That was all during the postwar period, so in the 50s and the 60s. In the late 60s, people lived... Well, I don't really remember the late 60s since I was two or three at the time, but I do remember the early 70s. We had a normal life; we had a great primary school in our neighborhood surrounded by buildings built in that decade, so it was a new neighborhood. People who lived

¹ This footage was filmed in January 2012.

² The speaker here refers to World War II.

there were... Middle class, meaning employed workers, employed intellectuals. We had a farmers market, several stores, coffee shops, a culture center, a cinema... This was all in my neighborhood, while in the downtown area there was an opera and ballet house, a huge concert hall was just built, about twenty theaters, thirty cinemas, etc. Our cinemas were independent, individual theaters with a single auditorium where movies were shown. There were no multiplex cinemas at that time.

Anyway, the public transportation was cheap, fast and reliable and it consisted of buses and trams. Not that many people owned a car; in front of our building which consisted of about 100 apartments, there were perhaps twenty cars. So, maybe it seems that the living standard was low, but people lived more responsibly in terms of ecology, I mean, we didn't waste as much. Our impact on the environment, the impact of each of us and our families that is, was much lower than it is today in terms of the production of waste and the amount of energy spent.

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